

**SWITZERLAND COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2015
REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE TO THE FLAG / MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Board President, Mr. Daugherty, called the regular meeting to order, asking that all communication devices be turned off or silenced, and led those in attendance in the pledge to the flag, followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE:

Board members in attendance were Mr. Daugherty, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Deck, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. Cord, and Mrs. Peters.

Others in attendance were Mr. Michael L. Jones, Wilma Swango, Mona Crabtree, Brooke Levell, Tony Spoores, William Carpenter, Gregg Goewert, Sean McGarvey, Deb Archer, Rob Banta, Sally Weales, Jennifer Biddinger, Valerie Smith, C. Albert McKay, Russell Lyon, Kathryn Williams, and Marcus Duckworth.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Mrs. Peters made a motion to approve an amended agenda, with the addition of a grant under New Business; an additional Professional Leave request; and two additional employment recommendations under Personnel. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. The amended agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Deck made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2015 meeting and the amended Minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting with the indicated corrections. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The changes to the January 26 Minutes consisted of two paragraph deletions and revisions to committee reports and individual Board comments. The Board's vote to approve the Minutes of both meetings as amended was unanimous.

FUND REPORT:

The Financial Report for December, 2014, was presented to the Board for approval by Corporation Treasurer, Wilma Swango. Mr. Deck moved to approve the report. Mrs. Collier seconded. Mrs. Swango explained that the amounts showing in the taxable funds are the true cash balances available for use in the new year. The Board's vote to approve the report as submitted was unanimous.

ALLOWANCE OF TRANSFERS:

The Board voted unanimously to approve the allowance of year end transfers report as submitted in a motion made by Mrs. Peters and seconded by Mrs. Cord.

CLAIMS:

The following payroll and vendor claims were presented to the Board for approval in a motion made by Mrs. Peters and seconded by Mr. Roberts:

Payroll Claims: 01/30/2015 and 02/13/15

Prewritten Claims: #48201-#48219; #48220-#48248

New Claims: #48249-#48336

Mrs. Peters questioned claim #48260 to Brown's Farm Implement, LLC in the amount of \$2,196.84. Mrs. Swango explained that this was for getting the lawn care equipment ready for spring use. She further explained that the amount only includes Vevay campus equipment, but payment for Switzerland County Elementary School equipment will be forthcoming once that invoice is received. The Board's vote to approve the claims as submitted was unanimous.

SUPERINTENDENT'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT:

Mr. Jones gave an overview of senate bills and house bills that may affect education. Senate Bill 436 would allow businesses to be assessed according to large vacant buildings of similar sizes. Senate Bill 470 would exempt charter schools from ISTEP Testing and A-F accountability. Senate Bill 476 concerns school CPF levies. Senate Bill 566 involves changes in collective bargaining by eliminating 8/1 starting date. House Bill 1001 is a budget bill which will include a school funding formula and school efficiency grants language sponsored by Representative Randy Frye. House Bill 1027 proposes that referendums and public questions can only be on November general elections ballots. House Bill 1028, regarding Capital Projects Funds, removes the two year renewal date, allowing schools to pay some of their insurance and utility costs out of those funds, or to use the money to pay for an audit by the State Board of Accounts on a permanent basis. House Bill 1100, concerning school efficiency grants, has now been amended to the House Budget Bill 1001, listed above. House Bill 1540 involves various gaming matters. Mr. Jones encouraged anyone with questions or concerns regarding issues involved with the bills to log on to the Indiana General Assembly website to contact Representative Frye or Jim Smith.

OLD BUSINESS:

Facilities & Ground Committee Report: Mrs. Peters reported that she and Mr. Bennett had met a number of times with various staff members and Administrators and Architects. They have walked through the High School and Jefferson-Craig to discuss and discern what may be needed in those buildings. Mrs. Peters provided the Board with some information regarding a financial company called Umbaugh which helps educational institutions determine how they best achieve their aspirations and what their limitations would be. The company's fee for their services would be 23% to 25%. Mrs.

Peters felt that the general consensus is that the Corporation should decide what is needed as compared to what is wished for. She requests a list of all Extra-Curricular practices and games to review in order to determine what is needed, as the idea of an auxiliary gym has also been mentioned a number of times.

The question of whether or not more classrooms are needed at Jefferson-Craig should also be determined. This would be a major priority, if the current influx of students continues or increases. Another factor to consider regarding this issue is whether the students are coming in from schools outside of the Corporation or whether they are students being granted transfers from the Switzerland County Elementary School district. Discussion ensued regarding the multiple reasons for the numbers of students that go from one school to the other and what is happening with other schools that may ultimately affect the need for more classrooms.

It was agreed that an open discussion meeting should be held on April 13, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in order to look at the big picture.

Negotiations Committee: Mr. Jones mentioned that the committee had attended a Negotiations seminar at an Indiana State Board Association conference. There have been some changes in the laws. One of the things that was mentioned was that the State Board of Accounts, who do audits for schools every two years, will be looking at contracts very carefully to make sure Corporations are in compliance with the changes already in effect from three or four years ago. Mr. Jones conveyed his hope of having some informal meetings with the Certified Teacher Association members so that when August 1 comes around, the Corporation will be ready with a proposed contract to bring to the Board for approval. He feels the process has become a little easier since collective bargaining is now limited to salaries and benefits.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Daugherty announced that he is moving Mr. Roberts from the Negotiations Committee, and appointing him and Mrs. Cord to the Internal Controls Committee. The Internal Controls Committee was developed to deter theft of funds from the Corporation. The three things that the committee should do is review the books each year, update the Internal Review Policy, and conduct the auditing of the Extra-Curricular Activities funds until such time as the State Board of Accounts resumes auditing them.

Mr. Daugherty appointed Katie Collier to take Mr. Roberts' place on the Negotiations Committee.

The Neola Company has been hired to help develop a new Policy Manual and keep it updated with new state policy requirements. Mr. Daugherty appointed Mrs. Peters as a Board contact with the Neola Company, as she has been working on bringing the policy manual up to date.

Three ECA fundraisers were unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mr. Deck. They are as follows:

- Band/Choir: Sale of sports team tumblers, Great American Opportunities, 3/3-3/10
- Gr. 7 Lang. Arts: Sale of handmade hair bows for animal shelter donations 3/2-5/29
- MS Teachers: Money tubs for Relay for Life donations in Julie F. Brown's honor, beginning in March, 2015

The Title VI, Rural School Grant, Part B in the amount of \$30,229.44 was unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mrs. Peters.

Five grants from the Community Foundation of Switzerland County, Inc. were presented to the Board for approval. Mrs. Peters moved to approve acceptance of the funds as submitted. Mrs. Cord seconded the motion and the Board's vote was unanimous. The approved grants are as follows:

- \$9,600 for the Switzerland County School Corporation Fund
- \$97,000 for Technology Based Programming from H.S. Enrichment & Adult Learning Fund
- \$2,000 for Pacer Band from Pacer Band Endowment Fund
- \$650 for Pacer Band from Kevin McSwain Memorial Endowment Fund
- \$400 for FFA Washington DC Leadership Conf. expenses from Shelby Minch Memorial Endowment Fund

The Board had first readings of the 2015-2016 Student/Parent Handbooks from Switzerland County Middle School, Jefferson-Craig Elementary School and Switzerland County Elementary School. Mrs. Collier had some questions regarding the re-taking of classes at the High School in a sequential order, the drug policy, and attendance policy. There were lengthy discussions regarding the need to make some clarifications in the handbooks. Mrs. Cord felt the grading scale at the Middle School was awfully lenient. She wondered how many days students were allowed to work at the polls. Mr. McGarvey said he did not remember one student from the Middle School who worked at the polls. Mrs. Cord brought up the differences in the tardy policies, progress reports procedures, and cell phone use procedures in the two elementary schools. The High School handbooks are still being revised. It was agreed that more discussion was warranted on all of these topics.

The Board voted unanimously to accept grant funds in the amount of \$500 from the Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste District to be used for chemical disposal in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mr. Roberts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: *(Anyone wishing to speak is asked to state their name and keep comments to 2 to 3 minutes. If this isn't enough time, participants are encouraged to submit the balance of their comments in writing and those wishing a written response are asked to leave their name and address with the Administrative Secretary).*

Mr. Daugherty opened the floor to comments from the public.

Mr. Goewert said that he was very proud of the accomplishments of the High School Girls basketball team. He also mentioned that 3 students won ISMA awards.

Marcus Duckworth also mentioned that 2 elementary students got Indiana State Music Awards.

Mr. Daugherty suggested bringing these students in to be recognized by the Board.

Mr. Bennett feels that folks should be recognized at the beginning of a meeting so they don't have to sit through its entirety if they don't wish to.

PERSONNEL:

The Board unanimously accepted the retirement of Middle School Guidance Counselor, Phyllis Weaver, in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mr. Roberts. Mrs. Weaver has been an employee of the Corporation for forty years.

Several Extra-Curricular Activities position recommendations were unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Cord and seconded by Mr. Roberts. They are as follows:

- Veronica Buckler – MS Softball Coach
- Donna Baker – HS Academic Fine Arts with Competition
- Jon Grice – HS Band ECA
- Harold Scranton – Volunteer Archery Assistant
- Olivia Hewitt – Volunteer MS Swimming Coach
- Matt Levell – MS Baseball Coach
- Dalton Wagner – Volunteer MS Baseball Coach

The Board voted unanimously to approve the resignation of Rick Wallace from the HS Wrestling Coach position in a motion made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mr. Bennett.

The Board voted unanimously to accept funds from a grant from the Juvenile Probation Office of Switzerland County, to pay for the Saturday School position for the following person, rate of pay, dates, times and grades, in a motion made by Mrs. Peters and seconded by Mr. Deck. Saturday School will be taught by Kaulene Green from 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. on 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 4/4, 4/18, 4/25, 5/9, and 5/30 for grades 6-12 at the Switzerland County High School at a pay rate of \$25 per hour. Students are assigned to Saturday School for violation of tobacco policy, unexcused absences, and major violation of school rules (at the discretion of the Administration).

The following employment recommendations were approved unanimously by the Board as follows:

- Jennifer Biddinger: Instructional Assistant Motion: Collier / Second: Roberts
- Jessica Mullins: Instructional Assistant Motion: Peters / Second: Cord
- Bill Hoskins: Part-Time, Seasonal, Grounds Care: Motion: Bennett / Second: Peters

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES/FIELD TRIPS:

The following Professional Leaves were unanimously approved by the Board in a motion made by Mrs. Collier and seconded by Mrs. Peters:

- S. Street to Library of Congress-Teaching with Primary Sources, Bloomington, IN, 2/27-28, 2015
- V. Smith to PLTW Training (Biomed), Kokomo, IN, 3/5-3/6, 2015
- M. Jung to Spring PLTW Conference, Kokomo, IN, 3/5-3/6, 2015
- C. Welch to Midwest Toxicology Training, Indianapolis, IN, 3/11-3/12, 2015
- Tech Dpt.(Sieglitz, Grubbs, Griffith, Bougher, Patz, Levell) to Google Summit (Chrome Book Mgmt.), Franklin, IN, April 11 & 12 OR April 12 & 13, 2015 (No 2 from ea. building gone on same 2 days).
- R. Ross to IN Speech, Lang., Hearing Assoc. Conf., Indianapolis, IN, April 23-25, 2015

Mrs. Peters made a motion to approve two Field Trip Requests as submitted. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve. They are as follows:

- Grice/Williams: HS Honors Band to All Star Band Weekend, Butler Univ., 2/20-22, 2015
- Grice/Williams: HS Music Trip to Memphis, TN, 4/23-26, 2015

USE OF FACILITIES:

The Board unanimously approved a Use of Facilities application from Josh South to use the High School Cafeteria on Saturday, 4/18/15 from 5:00-9:00 P.M. for a Lincoln Day Dinner in a motion made by Mr. Deck and seconded by Mr. Bennett.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: (SUPERINTENDENT)

Superintendent, Michael L. Jones, made the following announcements:

- Next Endowment meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Administration Office
- Next Regular Board Meeting, Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Administration Office with the Public Session beginning at 5:00 P.M.
- The 75th Annual National School Board Association Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, March 21-25, 2015. Any interested Board member should contact Cindy Haskell
- In compliance with State and Federal laws, the Indiana State Auditors are currently auditing the Corporation's financial records and procedures for 2012-2014
- Indiana State Board Association's Spring Regional Meeting will be held at the Marriott East in Indianapolis for 2 full days of training, April 8 & 9, 2015
- Deb Archer is the recipient of District 9 American Legion's Elementary School Teacher of the Year
- Donna Baker is the recipient of District 9 American Legion's Secondary School Teacher of the Year

BOARD REPORT AND COMMENTS:

Individual Comments by Board Members:

Mrs. Peters wanted to remind people to think about the big picture meeting open to the public, April 13 at 6:00P.M. in the Board Room at the Administration Building.

Mr. Deck asked when the snow days will be made up. Mr. Jones said the first four days of Spring Break, March 16-19, will be used as makeup days for the days we have missed so far.

Mrs. Cord thanked the Principals for all of their work on the handbooks. She hoped everyone with questions for the Board had them answered. She appreciated Mr. Daugherty appointing her to the Internal Controls Committee.

Mrs. Collier thanked Jefferson-Craig and Mr. Spoores for having Donuts with Dad and is looking forward to Muffins with Mom. She appreciates the staff's hard work in readying for ISTEP's and hopes it goes smoothly for everyone. She also feels congratulations are in order for the Lady Pacers and coaches. She feels it was a huge compliment for so many to travel so far in support of the team.

ADJOURNMENT: (7:25 P.M.)

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting in a motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Deck. The meeting was so adjourned.

Wayne Daugherty, President

William Roberts, Vice President

Josh Deck, Secretary

Joseph Bennett, Member

Katie Collier, Member

S. Jill Cord, Member

Nancy Peters, Member